

Mann, Laurie

From: Nickel, Brian
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Mann, Laurie; Croxton, Dave
Cc: Mullin, Michelle
Subject: RE: draft response to reporter (please reply with comments!)

Laurie, Dave:

Here are my edits:

https://usepa-my.sharepoint.com/personal/nickel_brian_epa_gov/Documents/Shared_with_EPA_Only/Don_Fels_Email_BN_Cmnts.docx?web=1

Thanks,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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Nickel.Brian@epa.gov

<http://epa.gov/r10earth/waterpermits.htm>

https://usepa-my.sharepoint.com/personal/nickel_brian_epa_gov/Blog

Please conserve natural resources by not printing this message.

From: Mann, Laurie
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2015 10:39 AM
To: Croxton, Dave; Nickel, Brian
Cc: Mullin, Michelle
Subject: draft response to reporter (please reply with comments!)

Don,

We want to make sure we are on the same page regarding the sources of PCBs in the Spokane River. In your email, you indicated that 8% of PCBs in the Spokane River are coming from point source dischargers, and that the rest of the PCBs are the coming from consumer products.

We believe that you misunderstood the information that was provided to you by members of the Task Force, and we want you to know that PCBs originating from consumer products are unlikely to be a major contributor to the PCB impairments in the Spokane River.

The PCB impairments in the Spokane River are unusually high relative to other parts of the State, and are likely the result of legacy contamination from industrial use of PCBs prior to the ban on PCB manufacturing in 1979. If consumer products were the primary source of PCB contamination in the Spokane River, we would expect to see high levels of PCB contamination through Washington – and we don't.

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We believe that you misunderstood the information that was provided to you by members of the Task Force. Although point source discharges may be a relatively small contributor to the PCB loading, this does not mean that PCBs originating from consumer products are a major contributor to the PCB impairments in the Spokane River. Also, sampling conducted during the summer of 2014 shows that the point sources can contribute about 33% or more of the total loading of PCBs in the river under low river flow conditions, although their contribution is probably relatively small on an annual basis.

The PCB concentrations in the Spokane River are unusually high relative to other parts of the State, and are likely the result of legacy contamination from industrial use of PCBs prior to the ban on PCB manufacturing in 1979. If consumer products were the primary source of PCB contamination in the Spokane River, we would expect to see high levels of PCB contamination throughout Washington – and we don't. In fact, even within the Spokane River, PCB concentrations appear to comply with Washington's and Idaho's water quality standards at Greenacres (Barker Road) and points upstream.

The primary *pathways* for contamination include point sources dischargers (including municipal and industrial stormwater), air deposition, and tributaries; and the original *sources of contamination* include contaminated soil, contaminated groundwater, building materials, electrical equipment, and consumer products. EPA is concerned about all of these potential sources, and strongly supports the work of the Task Force to further delineate the sources of PCB loading in the Spokane watershed.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us. EPA's response to the remainder of your questions are included below:

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